

Message Text

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64/73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 /071 W

----- 117067

R 211614Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9119

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 3269

AMEMBASSY EL SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. - TAGS - AND SUBJECT LINES OMITTED
)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORCS

SUBJECT: ODUBER'S FAILURE TO ATTEND CA SUMMIT

1. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION HERE IN OFFICIAL
ACCOUNTS OF PRESIDENT'S ODUBER'S FAILURE TO ATTEND THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN GUATEMALA
LAST SATURDAY. FIRST REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE
INDICATED THAT ODUBER WAS NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING LAST
THURSDAY BUT HAD ALREADY DEPARTED FOR A LONG WEEKEND IN
GUANACASTE AND IN ANY CASE COULD NOT BREAK OTHER COMMITMENTS.
TODAY'S PRESS, HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT ODUBER WAS INVITED
BY THE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA AT 3:00 PM ON FRIDAY
BUT COULD NOT GO BECAUSE HE LACKED THE REQUIRED PERMISSION
TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FROM THE ASSEMBLY AND THE ASSEMBLY
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WAS NOT IN SESSION.

2. DURING YETERDAY'S OPENING OF A SPECIAL SESSION, THE ASSEMBLY GAVE ODUBER PERMISSION TO VISIT CENTRAL AMERICAN AND PANAMA DURING THE NEXT NINETY DAYS. IT ALSO APPROVED A VISIT TO EUROPE FOR THREE WEEKS. THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED THE LATTER PERMISSION TO PERMIT A MEDICAL CHECKUP IN SWITZERLAND AND ALSO A VISIT TO GERMANY. IT WAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DEPART SOMETIME DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN FEBRUARY.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMATION, IT MAY BE THAT ODUBER WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ATTENDING A CENTRAL AMERICAN MEETING WHICH MIGHT APPEAR LUKEWARM IN SUPPORT OF VENEZUELA'S POSITION ON THE U.S. TRADE ACT. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ODUBER'S REPLY TO VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ WAS VIEWED VERY FAVORABLY BY THE OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE AND WEIGHED HEAVILY IN THE CONCLUSIONS WHICH THEY REACHED IN THEIR GUATEMALA MEETING. TO JUDGE FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS, HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THEY FOUND ANYTHING TO APPLAUD IN THE TRADE ACT. FACIO ASLO STATED THAT ODUBER SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE CA CHIEFS OF STATE.

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